

Message Text

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS
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EMO. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJ: SONI VENTORUM QUARTET

REF: LISBON 0806

SUMMARY: SONI VENTORYM QUARTET (SVQ) MADE GRIUMPHANT RETURN
PERFORMING FOR ABOUT 1700 PERSONS IN TOUR OF SIX CONCERTS
AND ONE WORKSHOP IN SIX MAINLAND PORTUGAL CITIES PLUS
MADEIRA MARCH 7-12 IN CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH SEVERAL CULTURAL
INSTITUTIONS.

THE PRESS RAVED ABOUT SVQ IN PARTICULAR AND USG CULTURAL
EFFORTS IN GENERAL. SAMPLE QUOTE "NEVER HAS A NON-EUROPEAN
COUNTRY SENT US SO MANY EXCELLENT ARTISTS". END SUMMARY.

1. MUSIC CRITIC HUMBERTO D'AVILA, WHO RECOMMENDED
QUARTET'S RETURN JOINED OTHER CRITICS IN PRAISING SVQ
HIGHLY. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (3/14) LAUDED SVQ FOR
"PURITY OF TECHNIQUE" AND "UNIFIED PERFORMANCE FILLED
WITH MUSICALITY, EXCELLENT SOUND, INTENSITY, LIVELINESS,
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DEPTH AND FINE INTERPRETATION". "O COMERCIO DO PORTO"
(3/12) PAID HIGHEST COMPLIMENTS: "SONI VENTORUM IS A FIRST
CLASS WOODWIND QUARTET... YOU HAVE TO HEAR THEM
TO DISCOVER THAT THESE INSTRUMENTALISTS DO HONOR TO MUSIC,
THEIR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING AND THEIR COUNTRY... NEVER HAS
A NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRY SENT US SO MANY EXCELLENT CONCERT
ARTISTS. WE WONDER WHY AND WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER.

BUT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO US IS THAT THESE MUSICAL AMBASSADORS
DO NOT STOP COMING HERE".

2. SOME 1700 PEOPLE (CULTURAL-POLITICAL LEADERS, STUDENTS,
MUNICIPAL GOP OFFICIALS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS) ATTENDED
CONCERTS IN LISBON, PORTO, FUNCHAL (MADEIRA), CALDAS DA
RAINHA, AND HEAVILY COMMUNIST CITIES OF EVORA AND BEJA.

3. IN LISBON, SVQ COMPETED SUCCESSFULLY WITH LISBON OPERA
DRAWING A CROWD OF ABOUT 500 PERSONS, AT GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION.
TWO CULTURAL LEADERS TOLD EMBOFF THEY FOREWENT OPERA
TO HEAR SVQ, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED "AN UNCOMMON QUARTET"
AND THE CONCERT "A RARE, WONDERFUL OCCASION NOT TO BE
MISSED." SVQ GAVE A FREE, MOST SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP AT
NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC TO 80 ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENTS.

4. ALTHOUGH ATTENDANCE AT OPORTO CONCERT WAS DISAPPOINTING
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, PRESS COVERAGE WAS SUBSTANTIAL,
AND NEWSPAPER CRITICS GAVE THEM RAVE REVIEWS.

5. IN FUNCHAL, 550 PEOPLE INCLUDING CIVIL GOVERNOR AND
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE ATTENDED MUNICIPAL
THEATRE CONCERT. PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING SVQ MUSICIAN
ARTHUR GROSSMAN REPORTED HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COUNTER-ACT
NEGATIVE CULTURAL STEROTYPES ABOUT U.S. IN LONG
INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL INTELLECTUALS AFTER
FUNCHAL CONCERT. AT CASA DA CULTURA IN CALDAS DA RAINHA,
ABOUT 300 HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ENTHUSIASTICALLY
ENDORSED SVQ AND LINED UP FOR AUTOGRAPHS.

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6. IN BEJA, ABOUT 170 PERSONS MAINLY YOUTH, OVERFLOWED
TOWN HALL SMALL AUDITORIUM. C-SPONSORS (CASA DA CULTURA,
FUND FOR SUPPORT TO YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS) WERE EXTREMELY
RECEPTIVE, AND INVITED THEM AND ACCOMPANYING CAO TO VISIT
AN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE. ARRANGEMENTS IN EVORA AT
GARCIA RESENDE THEATRE WERE LESS WELL ORGANIZED, BUT
CONCERTGOERS WERE EQUALLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

7. EMBASSY HEARTILY RECOMMENDS SVQ FOR PROGRAMMING AT
OTHER POSTS FOR THEIR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE AND THEIR DELIGHTFUL
OUTGOING PERSONALITIES.

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Message Attributes

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